WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Encouragement for use of chemical fertilizers

*65. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:
SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of consumption of chemical fertilizers in irrigated and rainfed areas of the country ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the use of chemical fertilizers even in rainfed areas is capable of increasing farm production substantially according to the latest technology ;

(c) if so, whether Government have formulated any scheme to promote and encourage the use of chemical fertilizers in areas without assured irrigation and where agriculture is dependent on rainfall ; and

(d) if so, the details of the scheme to remove impediments in the use of chemical fertilizers in irrigated areas and rainfed areas ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) There is no system of maintaining separate data on consumption of fertilisers in irrigated and rainfed areas of the country. However fertiliser consumption pattern indicates that per hectare consumption is considerably higher in the States having larger areas under irrigation.

(b) It is a fact that use of moderate doses of chemical fertiliser in rainfed areas can increase agricultural production appreciably. However besides use of chemical fertilisers, some of the other factors which influence agricultural production are suitable cropping pattern, soil and water conservation, land development, use of improved seeds, plant protection measures and improved agricultural implements.

(c) and (d) A proposal on the Development of Fertiliser Use in low consumption Rainfed Areas is under condideration of the Government, and the details are yet to be approved.

*66. [*Transferred to the 13th November*, 1986].

Supply of foodgrains for public distribution system

*67. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that one of the main reasons of the poor quality foodgrains with the FCI is attributable to poor storage facilities ;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to improve the storage facilities of foodgrains in different parts of the country ; and

(c) by when the better quality foodgrains are likely to be allocated to each State for distribution under the Public Distribution Scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) (a) to (c) Only foodgrains of fair average quality are issued by FCI for public distribution. The condition of storage facility with FCI is not a major cause in the deterioration of foodgrains. Continuous efforts is undertaken to keep foodgrains in good condition by : (a) providing scientific storage facilities, either in covered godowns or under cover and plinth arrangement and (b) by regular quality control measures like pesticidal treatment, aeration of stocks and cleaning of surroundings.